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INFO RUEHPF/AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH 0289
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 6489
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 1898
RUEHSH/AMCONSUL SHENYANG 3267
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1856

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BANGKOK FOR REFCOORD
GENEVA FOR RMA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/19/2017
TAGS: [PREF](#) [PREL](#) [KS](#) [CB](#)
SUBJECT: NEXT STEPS ON NORTH KOREANS IN PHNOM PENH

REF: A. STATE 6773
[1](#)B. 06 SEOUL 3600

Classified By: POL Ext. Chief Brian McFeeters. Reasons
1.4 (b/d)

[1](#)1. (C) On January 19, poloff delivered ref a points, on the four North Korean asylum seekers in Cambodia, to Yu Joon-ha, Director of MOFAT's Inter-Korean Policy Division. Yu said that the ROKG's position remained the same since it was asked in October 2006 (ref b), which was that Seoul had no objection to USG resettlement of North Korean asylum seekers in third countries, including Cambodia, in accordance with their expression of free will. The ROKG would continue to provide background vetting information to the USG on a case-by-case basis.

[1](#)2. (C) Regarding the four North Koreans in Cambodia, Yu said that the ROKG agreed that the next step should be a UNHCR determination of the individuals' resettlement desires based on their free will. In the course of UNHCR's investigation, if it developed a need for Korean translation or other cooperation, UNHCR should request assistance from the ROKG Embassy in Phnom Penh. Yu said he would recommend that the ROKG Embassy do what it could for UNHCR, although, he noted, the ROKG Embassy was already busy processing its own cases for resettlement to South Korea.
STANTON